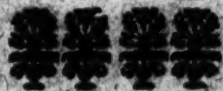


3 *hapers* THE
CHRISTIANS
SWORD AND
BUCKLER.

OR,
A Letter sent by Doctor
SPRINT, to a Man seven years grie-
vously afflicted in Conscience, and
fearfully troubled in minde.

Very comfortable and
commodious to withstand the As-
saults of SATAN.

The Tenth Edition.



London, Printed for S. Rand, and are to
be sold at his Shop at Bernards-lan
Gate in Holborn, 1650.

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THE
CHRISTIANS
SWORD AND
BUCKLER.

OR
A Treatise by Doctor

WILLIAM BUCKLER, M.A.
of the University of Cambridge.



Very
valuable and
interesting
to all who
are interested
in the history
of the Church
of England.

The First Edition.



Printed by J. Smith, at the
Printers Shop in St. Pauls Church-yard,
London, 1690.

frances woffreston
her bouk



THE
CHRISTIANS

Sword and Buckler,

SIR,



Am not unmindefull
of your Letter, though
by occasion of busines
I have been let.

I commend your
care, to seek comfort
from the Ordinance of God, that is
his Ministers, who are commanded
of God to comfort & feeble minded, 1 Thes. 7. 1
& to speak comfortably to Jerusa. Eza. 40. 18
lem, & to cry unto her, that her war- Luk. 4. 18.
fare is accomplished, that her in-
quity is pardoned. As Christ was
anoyned, so are his Ministers ap-
pointed to preach the Gospel to the
poor, deliverance to the Captive,
recovery of sight to the blind, and
set at liberty such as are bound.

Wherfore, seeing you have en-

A 2

treated

The Christians

treated my help, I will (by Gods assistance) satistie your desire.

Your case was strange, to be holden as a creature senseless for seven whole years. But others also have been holden with the like;

Dan. 4. 29 Nebuchadnezzar K. of Babel, was turned out a grazing among beasts seven years; ~~then~~ Gods children have been far worse afflicted, as the daughter of Abraham was for 18. years bound of Satan. The man

Luke 13.
16.

whom our Saviour cured, had been diseased 38 years, which are far above the distance of your sickness, wherefore you ought not to think the worse of your self, for nothing hath befallen unto you, but that which appertaineth unto man:

1 Cor. 10.
13.

May you ought to comfort your heart in your affliction; for as you know the sender is God, and the cause which is your sin; So now you know your deliverer, and the cause, which is his mercy: for it is the Lord who killeth and maketh alive, bringeth down to the grave,

Sam. 26

and

Sword and Buckler.

and raiseth up : and by how much
greater your crosse hath been, by
so much the greater was your de-
liverance. The mightier power of
God upon your body, and his rich
mercy on your soul hath the more
appeared, that so the more he
might be glorified, and your heart
comforted ; For you may argue
thus ; The Lord might have in su-
ffice destroyed me, yet he hath in
mercy spared me ; the Lord might
have chosen whether he would
have delivered me or not, but in
great mercy he rather chose to de-
liver me ; the Lord might have
left me my health, and withdrawn
his grace from me, and given me
over to the power of Satan, but
he hath restored my health and
understanding, and renewed my
grace.

Whereby I see God dearly lov-
eth me, which I could never see,
if I had not been thus afflicted :
How should I henceforth distrust
his Providence, doubt of his Pro-
mises,

The Christians

misers, despaires of his Mercy :
Why should I not rest assured and
secured of his present and perpe-
tuall Love to embrace me, his
Mercy to pardon me, his Pro-
vidence, to defend me, his Good-
ness to compass me, and to work
all evils for my good ? Therefore
my soul return unto thy rest, for
the Lord hath been beneficiall un-
to thee ; he hath delivered my
soul from death ; and mine eyes
from teares ; and my feet from fal-
ling : I shall walk before the Lord
in the Land of the Living : What
shall I render unto the Lord for all
his benefits ? I will take the Cup
of Salvation, and call upon the
name of the Lord.

Psal. 118. 2. The Lord was ready to save me,
therefore I will sing my song all
the dayes of my life, in the house
of the Lord.

Thus you may comfort your
self, yet measure not Gods love
to much by your deservances, as
by his Grace, which nature gave
you

Sword and Buckler.

You not, nor hath God taken a way.

For as afflictions are no certain tokens of Gods anger, so deliverance is not alwayes a token of his favour.

For he gave the Israelites their desire, but he sent heaviness into their souls; God may in mercy lengthen out afflictions, and in judgment make an end of it. Psal. 108.
15.
The table of the wicked is a snare unto them, and their prosperity their ruine: But it is good for Gods Children, that they have been afflicted, that they may learn his statutes. Godliness is Gods best portion, which is great gain, and is profitable for all things, having the Promises of the life present, and of that which is to come: Therefore prove the grace that is in you, and to measure the love of God unto you, try what godly grief you have for sinne; what passion at your wants, what feare of God, what faith in

Psal. 108.
15.

Psal. 69. 32.

Psal. 119.
71.

1 Tim. 6. 4
and 4. 8.

The Christians

Jesus Christ, what love of Gods
children, what delight in the world
and Ministry, what desire of the
grace you lack, what fervency in
Prayer, what cheerfulness in
praising God, what care in well-
doing, and readiness to do the
will of God, what patience in suf-
fering crosses from God, and re-
proof from man; What holy me-
ditations, what gracious speeches,
what diligence in your calling,
what dutifulness to your Super-
iours, what purpose of heart to
2 Cor. 15. 3 cleave unto the Lord? These are
the sparks of Gods Image, the
fruits of his Spirit, the effects of
his grace, the assurance of his elec-
tion; the certaine token of his pre-
sence: For the Lord is with us
Rom. 5. 8 whiles we are with him; and he
draweth neer unto us, when we
draw neer unto him.

Now touching the Temptati-
ons of Satan that do trouble you,
perceiue when God hath done,
with you, the Devill taketh you
in

Sword and Buckler.

in hand, God afflicted your body,
and the Devill your soul. But
as God brought you from sickness
to health; so thinke that God can
bring you from temptations to vic-
tory, that being prepared to afflic-
tion in soul and body, you may
both serve him in this life, and live
with him in the next.

Every temptation of a Chri-
stian is a ground of a strong confe-
ssion, because Satans on-seis ar-
gue that we are none of his; For
the Dragon strikes not at his own
Souldiers, (For Kingdomes divi-
ded are at an end) but at Michael
and his Angels: If Christ had
not been the Son of God he would
not fiercely have assailed him:
Warriours never besiege nor bat-
ter Cities they have won: so Sa-
tan seek not the soul he hath de-
boured, he rageth most at those
he cannot get, and is most busie
with those he hath least to do:
when this strong man keepeth his
pallace in mens souls, the things
that

Rev. 12.7.

Marth. 12

25. 1. 2.

12. 1. 2.

12. 1. 2.

12. 1. 2.

12. 1. 2.

12. 1. 2.

12. 1. 2.

12. 1. 2.

Rev. 12.

13. 14. 15.

16.

Luke 1. 21

The Christians

that he possesseth are in peace, and
 when he is restrained and muzzled
 by the power of God, he rageth
 at the persons, and roareth in
 the Conscience of Gods dear
 Children; your temptations come
 not to you by chance, but by the
 will of God, without whose leave
 he cannot touch either Man or
 Beast: but God hath an hand to
 limit Satan, and direct his tempe-
 ration for our good, as he hath a
 hand to let him loose, for our try-
 all and vexation. Whereby he hum-
 bleth the Proud, tryeth the Faci-
 ent, steeleth the Faith, and worketh
 the victory of his beloved
 Saints: It is Gods Spirit that
 leadeth Gods Children to be tempe-
 ted of the Devil, and he that leade-
 them into the Battell, catcheth
 them victorie: For greater is he
 that is in us, then he that is in the
 world: the Serpents head is crushed
 by the Seed of the Woman: The
 Devill is conquered and cast out of
 Heaven, and is come down unto
 the

Iob 1. 10.

Mat. 2. 21,

2 Cor. 1. 5.

1. Cor. 13. 12.

Ioh. 1. 22.

12.

Lu. 13. 13.

Revel. 12.

11,

Mat. 5. 1,

1 Ioh. 4. 4.

Gen. 3. 5.

Revel. 12,

19. 12,

Sword and Buckler.

the Inhabitations of the Earth, so Rom. 8.
that Angels cannot separate us 28, 9.
from the love of God in Christ:
When Satan bindeth us, Christ Luke 22.
prayeth that our faith faile not, for 31, 32.
he ever lieth to make request for
us: When the Messenger of Satan
is sent to buffet us, Gods grace is
sufficient for us: Wherefore, we
must rejoyce in these temptations, 2 Cor. 12.
because it is for the tryall of our 7.
faith & patience: And for Satan Iam i. 2, 3.
a fig for him; Resist him only and
he will flye from you: Pray to
your Father to free you from temp-
tations, and if he do not free you
from them, yet he will deliuer you Iam. 4. 7.
from euill.

The particular points of his
temptations I will briefly touch:
He tells you, that the Word
God is false: This is the first les-
son that the Deuill teacheth, and
it is his way to make men A-
theists: But you may tell him,
that God is true of his word, as Psal. 3 15
he is false of his: God is the God
of Ioh, 8. 44.

The Christians

Heb. 6.18 of truth, and the Devill is the fa-
 Rom. 1.25 ther of a Lye : It is not possible
 that God would Lye, it is not pos-
 sible but the Devill would Lye :
 Iohn 3.10 Say you unto your soul, I must
 beleve the truth and not a lye, lest
 I turne Gods truth into a Lye,
 for he that beleeveth not God,
 hath made him a Lyer : I will ra-
 ther beleve the Creator, then the
 creature, the Maker then the de-
 stroyer of men, and that which
 will save me, then that which
 will condemne me ; yea, let God
 be true, and every Devill and
 Rom. 3.4 Man a Lyer : As for the word of
 Iam. 1.18 God, it is the word of Truth, it is
 righteous unto altogether, his word
 Psal. 19.9 therefore is pure, and endureth
 for ever. This the godly know,
 who onely have it ; this the Spirit
 Prov. 39.5 witnesseth in the hearts of Gods
 1 Pet. 1.25 children, this the power thereof
 proclaimeth in the conversion of
 souls, this experience at all times
 and places maketh evident ; The
 wicked know to their cost, both men
 and

Sword and Buckler.

and Devils) the fastfall to their comfort.

Next, if Satan seek to lay your sins before your eyes, thereto you must lay the sufferings of Christ before your eyes: If he accuse you, tell him; the accuser of Rev. 12. 10 the brethren is cast out: If he charge your conscience with your sins, aske him who shall lay any thing to the charge of Gods chosen? If he condemne you for them, say, It is God that justifieth, who shall then condemne? If he say, your sins are many, and more then can be pardoned, tell him, where sin aboundeth, grace overaboundeth. If he say, you are the greatest sinner in the world, tell him it is true, but Christ came into the world to save sinners, whereof I am chiefe. If he alledge the greatness of thy guilt, say, Though my sins be as red as Scarlet, yet he will make them as white as Snow: If he say, Suppose some of thy sins be cleansed, yet

Rom. 8. 33

34.

Rom. 5.

10.

2 Tim. 5.

15.

Esa. i. 38

The Christians

- 1 Ioh. 1. 7. yet not all, say, that the bloud of
 Christ clenseth us from all finnes,
 If he say, Christ dyed for some,
 but not for all, say, He is the re-
 conciliation of the finnes of the
 whole World: he is the Saviour of
 all men, but especially of them
 that beleeve. If he say, suppose
 God pardon that, it is but for a
 season, till thou sin againe; tell
 him againe of the new Covenant
 of God, which saith, I will for-
 give their iniquity, and will re-
 member their sin no more: If
 he say, all this thou presumest,
 shew him thy godly sorrow, which
 causeth Repentance to salvation:
 If he say, how knowest thou whe-
 ther God will except of thy Re-
 pentance or not? tell him, If we
 acknowledge our sins, God is
 faithfull and just to forgive our
 sins, and to cleanse us from all un-
 righteousness. If he say, thy sor-
 row is vnsure, examine your
 selfe whether you be in the Faith,
 and say to God, I beleeve, Lord
 help

1 Ti m. 4.

10. 11.

Ier. 31. 34.

34.

Cor. 7. 10.

Cor. 7. 10.

Cor. 7. 10.

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Cor. 7. 10.

Cor. 7. 10.

Sword and Buckler.

help my unbeliefe : If he say, thy faith is feigned, dead, and false, say unto him, He that beleeueth in the Son hath witness of himself; as for thee, D. Satan, 10. I will shew you my Faith by my works. If he say, thy obedience is feigned, dead, and false, and you are but an Hypocrite, say of your self, I know nothing by my self; yet am I not thereby justified : Turne unto God and say, 1 Cor 4.4. O that my wayes were directed to keep thy statutes, keep my heart Psal. 19. 5. upright in thy statutes, that I be so. not ashamed. If he say thou art accused, because thou continuest not in all things that are written, say againe : Christ hath redeemed me from the curse of the Law, Gal. 3. 31. when he was made a curse for me : If he say, thy corruptions be strange and many, cry out, O miserable man that I am, who shall deliver me from this body of death I thank God, through 25, Ro. 7. 24. Jesus Christ : Pray unto God, create

The Christians

- Psal. 51. 10** create a cleane heart, O Lord re-
vive a right Spirit within me: If
he say, for all this thou shalt be
condemned, because Gods judgements be true; and grooeth every
man according to his works:
- Rom. 8. 1.** Say, there is no condemnation to
them that are in Christ, to them
that walke not after the flesh, but
after the Spirit. Lastly, if he say,
yet thou canst have no peace of
conscience but a perpetual wound:
- Psal. 85. 8** Say, The Lord speaketh peace to
his people, and to his Saints, that
- Rom. 5. 1** they turn not again to their folly
for being justified by Faith, we
have peace towards God, through
our Lord Jesus Christ.
- I know the Devill may proceed
and say, thou art not chosen: but
you must say unto him, That God
- Ephc. 1. 4** chose us in Christ, that we should
be holy: And I am sure, that God
hath chosen to himself the man
that is godly: So vertue joined
to our faith, makes our calling and
- Psal. 4. 3** election sure: for such as God hath
pre-

Sword and Buckler.

predestinated, them he hath called; wherefore, so long as Gods grace remaineth in me, so long I will rejoyce that my name is written in the Book of life: but Satan may object, Suppose thou be now in the favour of thy God, yet thou mayest fall away from grace, he may withdraw his Spirit: To this may you answer thus againe,

The gifts and callings of God are without repentance; if he love us, he loved us from everlasting, and loveth us to the end. No creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ, kindness and mercy shall follow me all the dayes of my life: and this God is our God for ever and ever, he shall be our guide unto the death. But he may say, that Gods mind may alter, and he may hate them for whom he loved of mercy: God answereth for himself: I am the Lord: I change not, and ye Sons of Jacob are not consumed: for God is not as man, that he should
B repent,

Luk. 10. 20

Ro. 11. 29

Ioh. 12. 1.

Rom. 8. 38.

39.

Psal. 129.

Psal. 48. 14.

Mat. 3. 6.

1 Sam. 15. 19.

The Christians

Heb. 13: 1. repent : Jesus Christ that was yesterday ; is the same to day , the same also he is for ever: Gods Covenant of life and peace to everlasting. So then, if thou canst break

Ier. 33. 20. Gods Covenant of the day and night, that there shall not be day and night in their season, then may Gods Covenant be broken with his Chosen, for God hath said to his chosen. The Mountaines shall re-

Esa. 54. 10. move, and the Hills fall down, but my mercy shall not depart from thee, neither shall this covenant of my peace fall away, saith the Lord, which hath compassion on thee.

Rom. 5. 10. For that Mercy and free grace which moved God to accept us when we were sinners, strangers, enemies, and chosen of wrath, and to reconcile us by the death of his Son, must much more move him (being reconciled) to accept us, and to save us by the life of Christ : Thus the foundation of God remaineth sure.

per Satan in reply, suppose there

Sword and Buckler.

there be no alteration or change
in God, yet in thee there is, he is
strong but thou art weak: But
Peter answereth, that We are not ^{1. Pet. i. 5.}
kept by our own strength, but by
the power of God unto salvation,
and I shall overcome by the blood ^{Rev. 12. 15.}
of the Lamb, for in his own might
shall no man be strong: Suppose
then I may fall, and that most
grievously, as David, Solomon,
and Peter did: Yet though I fall, I ^{1. Sam. 2. 9.}
shall not be cast off, for the Lord ^{Psal. 27.}
putte his hand under me: The ^{23, 24.}
paths of man are directed by the
Lord, he will keep the feet of his
Saints: wherefore rejoyce not a- ^{1. Sam. 10.}
gainst me. O mine Enemy, though ^{Micha. 7. 8.}
I fall, I shall rise, when I sit in
darkness, the Lord shall be a light
unto me. ^{1. Cor. 13. 12.}
O Satan, will you further this,
how dar'st thou presume on Gods
assistance? Thou hast not Gods
grace, nor thy command: Where
him the covenant of God confirm-
ed and sealed by the blood of Jer. 3. 3.

The Christians

Ier. 32. 40. **Jesus Christ, who saith, I will write my Law in their hearts, I will make an everlasting Covenant with them, that I will never turne away from them, to do them good; I will put my feare in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me; I will give them a new heart and a new spirit; I will take the stony heart out of their bodies, and I wil give them a heart of flesh I will put my spirit within them, and cause them to walk in my Statutes.**

Ex. 26. 27.
& n. 19, 20

It is most true, we are not sufficient of our selves, to think any thing of our selves, but our sufficiency is of God: as no man cometh unto Christ, except the Father draweth him, so with-

2 Cor. 3. 5.

out Christ we can do nothing: yea, through the help of Christ which

Ioh. 6. 44.

strengtheneth me, I shall be able to

Ioh. 15. 5

do all things. And he that hath

Phil. 4. 13

begun the good work within me,

Pl. 144. 10

shall perfeome it untill the day of

Jesus Christ: And his good spirit

shall lead me into the Land of

Right

Sword and Buckler:

Righteousnes, and seale me to Eph. 4. 30
the day of my Redemption.

As for the help that Satan offereth thee; aske him how he can help another, that cannot help himself, and how should one trust the Faith of a Deceiver? He offered the World unto our Saviour Luk. 4. 6
Christ, and told him that the World was his, but he told a lye; for albeit he be called the God of this world, because he ruleth in the Children of disobedience: Yet the earth is the Lords, and all that therein is, the World, and all that dwell therein. Wherefore, although the wicked of the World fall down and worship him, to gaine far smaller matters then the World, by lying, swearing, and for swearing, deservings, and oppressing, and such evil courses; yet you must utterly refuse this offer with avoide Satan, and come behind me Satan, for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve

The Christians 72

erve. If Satans help might stand
a man in stead, he might have no
fellowship with his oncraftfull
works of darkness.

Eph. 5. 11. Our Saviour Christ, and his
Apostles would none of his ass-
stance to help to publish the Go-
spell to the World. It was the
bane of Saul and Ahazi Kings of
Judah, to seek for the help of Sa-
tan :

Mat. 1. 25 It is better to trust in the
1 Cor. 10. Lord, then to put any confidence
22. in man, or evill spirit, for Devils
2 Kings cannot free us from the hands of
4. God, but God can keep us from
the power of Devils: For if God
Psa. 118. 8. be with us, who can be against us?
Rom. 8. 31. He is not far from every one of

us, he is our shadow at our right
Acts 17. 2. hand: He is a shield to them that
Psal. 12. 1. trust in him. He keepeth his peo-
5, 6. ple as the apple of his eye, under

the shadow of his wings. And as
Prov. 30. 5. the mountains about Jerusalem,
Psal. 17. 8. so is the Lord about his people,
Psal. 125. 2. henceforth, and for ever. Say
therefore unto Satan, I will try
power,

Sword and Buckler:

power, and renounce thy hope, as
I am none of thine, because I am ^{1 Cor, 6.}
bought with a price, so will I ^{16.}
none of thee, nor of thy help; The ^{Psal, 27, 10}
Lord is my helper, my Rock, my
Fortress, my deliverer, my
Strength, my Shield, the Horne of
my Salvation, and strength of my
life, my defence is in God, who ^{Psal, 78, 10}
preserveth the upright in heart.
The God whom I serve is able to ^{Dan. 3, 5}
deliver me, and though he slay ^{Iob 13, 15}
me, I will trust in him: He only
makeeth me to dwell in safety; the
Lord is with me, Therefore I will
not fear what man, or Satan, can
do unto me; for when my flesh ^{Psal, 4, 8,}
faileth, and my heart also, then ^{Psa. 73, 62}
God is the strength of my heart,
and my portion for ever. So, the
Father of mercies, and the God
of all comfort, prosper and
sanctifie that I have
written unto
you, Amen.

F I N I S.

